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Supplement

Near East & South Asia

Casablanca Economic Conference for the Middle East and North Africa

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Peres Calls Conference Middle East 'Revolution'

TA0111125594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Calling the Casablanca summit "the beginning of a revolution in the Middle East," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reported yesterday on major US and European commitments to develop the region.

He said the Europeans are seriously getting involved in the development of the Middle East in the next five years and have pledged $7 billion for the area's economic development. The assistance, which will be provided by the European Bank, would go to all the peace-seeking countries in the region. Peres noted that currently this means that Syria and Libya would be excluded.

Peres also reported on his meeting with US Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs Larry Summers, who said a regional bank would be established by the end of the year.

This constitutes a major change in the US Treasury's position, which agreed reluctantly to go along with the concept.

In addition, the Americans have pledged that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the US foreign investment insurance company, would finance half the cost of a feasibility study to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. Moreover, OPIC agreed to provide $74 million in short term loans to Jordanian small businesses.

The credit is provided against the purchase of US goods and services. OPIC will also help finance the expansion of the al-'Aqabah airport to serve Elat as well.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 November in a page A2 report by Gay Bekhor in Casablanca reports that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced yesterday that several noteworthy economic achievements, mainly with the Jordanians, have been reached. Over the past three days, Peres met three times with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan and with senior ministers from Qatar, Tunisia, and Morocco."

Peres said: "OPIC also undertook to fund the building of a peace road linking al-'Aqabah, Elat, and Taba and the establishment of a free trade zone between Elat and al-'Aqabah and to pursue 50 percent funding by the World Bank for a feasibility study on the development of a peace valley between Israel and Jordan, as well as the allocation of $74 million for small-business loans to Jordan. Prince Hasan participated in the meeting with OPIC officials."]

The European Bank committed itself to finance feasibility studies for water production in Jordan.

Peres said he found the interest elicited by the conference, which brought together 1,200 companies, 400 government officials and 60 heads of state and ministers from throughout the world, "amazing."

"I did not expect this to happen so fast and so go so far," he said.

Peres reported that Qatar's minister of finance told him at a meeting they held yesterday that Qatar wants to hold the next regional summit after the Amman Conference next year.

Asked whether Qatar and Oman would be ready to formalize relations with Israel, Peres refused to answer directly, although he hinted that he expected progress in that direction soon.

He noted that Israel would have to undergo a major change in attitude to adjust to the new economic reality in the region. He said Israel remains entrenched in a boycott mentality while the rest of the world is marching ahead. "The world is taking a step forward, while we are going in reverse," said Peres.

The Casablanca Summit has transformed the Middle East, whose sole economic organization consisted of the Arab boycott, into a region looking towards economic cooperation, the foreign minister said.

"Instead of the Arab boycott, there is Arab openness; because of the change in the Arabs' approach, there is a change on all fronts—the American, European, official and international institutions—and when getting down to the details one feels these changes," said Peres.

Asked why the Europeans were so forthcoming only now, after having been so reticent to contribute, he responded that until now Israel did not know how to approach them.

Peres admitted, however, that there were problems in opening European markets to Israeli telecommunications and agricultural exports. He said that he expects the Europeans to allow Israel to get up to 1 percent of the telecommunications markets, noting that the problems in opening Europe's market was largely a problem of inter-European competition.

Peres refuted criticism that none of the foreign investments in the region will go to Israel, saying, "elimination itself of hate is a contribution to Israel's economy."

Peres ridiculed Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's concerns about Israel's costs to finance the establishment of a regional bank. "Israel can afford to buy a 5 percent share in (Jacques) Atali's bank (the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, in London) and can't afford to do it with a regional bank?" he asked rhetorically.

Peres added that the bank will be established even without Shohat's permission to participate.

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Peres: Comprehensive Peace Israel's Major Goal

LD0111155794 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1349 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Speech by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Casablanca Economic Conference—live, in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Your Majesty [preceding two words in French], excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: When a boy is being born we can see, when spring arrives we can watch it, but when it comes to politics we never know what was born and when the spring arrived. I do believe that over the last two days we are witnessing the birth of a new Middle East, we are witnessing a new spring, an economic spring, coming to our midst. Very much it is due to the King of Morocco. [passage omitted]

We have made an agreement with the Palestinian people in order to live in agreement with the Palestinian people. It is not a piece of paper, it is a basic change and I want to tell Chairman 'Arafat that we consider the Palestinian people the heart of the problem and we want to solve it together honorably, rightly, justfully [as heard]. It is a very complicated matter and that is the reason why we moved so slowly and gradualy. But we shall move ahead. [applause]

Our peace with Jordan was a brilliant success and we shall continue to work to make it a new reality. It does not close the door to have peace with Syria and Lebanon. We shall not stop to act very decidedly until the whole of the Middle East will see a comprehensive peace and every person will be able to move in that area without fear, without danger, with hope and honor, no matter if he's Arab or Jewish, if he's Christian or Moslems or any other religion. This remains our major goal. [passage omitted]

If you want to have successful business, let us make the world a successful place to live in, without fear, without terror, without threats, and this is a great occasion, here in Casablanca, in Morocco, to serve the people in the two major bases—the governmental and the private ones. Let us join in hands [as heard] and promote the life of this region and make it an occasion for economic growth and prosperity which will be a great contribution to the rest of the world. We shall work together and work hard together. [passage omitted]

Again, on behalf of my country, of my people, I would like to thank His Majesty, that through his works there are many people listening with their heart full of hope and to all the other participants for really introducing a new morning in a region covered with clouds. It will continue to shine in the future and for the future. Thank you very much. [applause]

Musa, Peres Comment After Bilateral Meeting

NC0111153694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Casablanca, 1 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres and Knesset members today on the sidelines of the Casablanca economic summit. Afterward Musa said he and Peres discussed the peace process on the Palestinian and the other tracks and the results of the economic summit and its effect on the peace process. Musa pointed out that Egypt's speech before the economic summit the day before yesterday was not directed against any party, but was merely a review of the main points of Egypt's policy. He noted that the economic summit offered new ideas and that it might boost the peace process if things proceed in the right direction.

Peres said the Casablanca economic summit will have a major impact on the peace process, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Asked about the Arab boycott of Israel, Peres said it does not harm only Israel, but also harms the parties that imposed it. He said that economic development in the region will raise the standard of living of all the region's peoples and countries without exception and the people will feel the benefits of peace. He expressed his belief that Cairo will be a center of economic activity in the region because Egypt has the potential and resources to help it occupy this status.

Peres said he does not think it is logical to link every development with Syria, noting that Egypt was right when it proceeded on the peace path without waiting for anyone. Commenting on this, Musa said: Syria's participation in the peace process is very important. We are confident the peace process is proceeding in the right direction and that Syria will take part in these activities soon.

Musa Expresses Confidence in Peres in Speech

LD0111163694 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1327 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Speech by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the Casablanca Economic Conference—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Your Majesty, in your speeches, writings and memoirs you have always expressed hope for the future. This conference, the Casablanca conference, is nothing but the right and correct expression of the hope for the future. [passage omitted]

There is no better expression for hope for the future than what Mr. Shimon Peres just said; that he understands that the Palestinian cause is the core issue of the present and its settlement is the basis for future action. This is absolutely true. I have confidence in what Shimon Peres said and that he works and will work towards consolidating this so that we can push peace forward to the stage of cooperation and achieving prosperity.

Your Majesty, we have a duty and we have to work continuously in the political field in order to see that peace with Syria and peace with Lebanon have become

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definite and in order to see that peace with the Palestinian people has also become definite. We have to follow up what we have discussed here within the economic context and what we agreed to establish of institutions or projects. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Lack of Aid Leads to 'Destabilization'

AU0111151394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Report by Sorina Man in Casablanca]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following his arrival in Casablanca yesterday afternoon, Romanian President Ion Iliescu held a meeting in the evening hours with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. On that occasion they exchanged views regarding the evolution of the peace process in the area, as well as the genuine and pressing economic and social difficulties currently facing the Palestinians. Yasir 'Arafat briefed President Iliescu on those difficulties, stating that if Palestinians do not receive economic support it is possible that the country will deteriorate socially, which could lead to an intensification of extremism and destabilization in the region.

As I send this report, President Iliescu is holding talks with Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal of Jordan. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Announces New Port, 'Free Zone' in Gaza

LD0111154994 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1345 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, at the Casablanca Economic Conference—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Your Majesty, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: Once again, Your Majesty, I would like to express, in my name and on behalf of the Palestinian people and our Palestinian delegation, my deep gratitude, appreciation, and profound respect for what you have done and are doing, not only in the interest of Morocco, the fraternal country, but also in the interest of the entire region. We are awaiting the emergence of a new dawn, the dawn of the region, our region which is awaiting this economic event which accompanies and coincides with the relentless work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the entire region. Peace that is based on equity, equality, and justice. A comprehensive peace in the land of peace, in Palestine, the land of the three messages; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Let us, Your Majesty, make our Jerusalem, the first Qibla and the third holy mosque, the route of the prophet's journey and the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him, a new language for dialogue between the three religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. [applause]

I would like also to tell you, Your Majesty, that our people are anticipating a great deal more from this conference and that they have attended with full awareness of the economic, social, and political dimensions of this conference. Therefore, I declare before this conference that we have decided to establish in Gaza a new port on the Mediterranean Sea. We have also decided to create immediately beside it a free zone where we can all conduct our dealings according to the principles and objectives of this conference. In this way we will make it a point from which we can make an effective contribution to the economic and civilizational development of the language of the age, the language of economics, and the language of action. [passage omitted]

Jordan's Prince Hasan Invites Delegates to Amman

LD0111164494 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1327 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Speech by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan at the Casablanca Economic Conference—live, English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] May I, Your Majesty, in expressing my thanks to the Council on Foreign Relations and the world economic forum, state clearly that the success of the Casablanca conference in setting the framework for Middle East-North African economic development in both the inter-regional and intra-regional economic interactions, will be borne out by a follow up mechanism, which is called upon to ensure commitment, continuity, and focus on a thematic, as opposed to a generalized, approach. We hope that the theme of business, trade, investment, and the prerequisite of regional economic cooperation for interaction between both the public and private sectors could be pursued vigorously as we seek active partners, fully committed to the goal of bringing the regional economy into the world economy.

May I take the opportunity of extending an invitation to the Amman conference mentioned in the declaration, in the first half possibly of next year, where we hope that the comprehensiveness of the peace process in the Middle East will be fully recognized and will be further enhanced. I believe, Your Majesty, ladies and gentlemen, that strong synergies should be established and strong interaction should be witnessed between the Casa[blanca] conference and the Amman process, as well as with the multilateral talks and in particular the work of the regional economic development working group, REDWIG [expansion unknown], with the participation of both the private sector and the international economic and financial institutions.

Finally, sir, may I say on behalf of the Jordanian delegation, that active participation in FIS [expansion unknown] means participation by all our peoples, and I would like to state clearly that since the donors' conference in Washington and following the declaration of principles, we have been fully conscious of the importance of doing everything within our means to support the Palestinian people and to recognize the importance

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of their humanitarian cause. We stand ready to bring further focus to this interaction in building an identity free from constraint, an identity that contributes vibrantly to an Arab building block in this inter- and intra-regional process. [applause]

Peace can only be consolidated if it is relevant to all and, if it is shared by all, I think that our task will have been vindicated. I look to the millions of people in the Arab Maghreb, who look forward to sharing this great initiative that you have taken here, in the Arab Maghreb, and I thank you, sir, on behalf of the Jordanian delegation and on behalf of all Jordanians for your generosity of intellect and for your patience. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, Your Majesty, Your Excellencies.

Prince Hasan Voices Optimism During News Conference

JN0111190694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1620 GMT 1 Nov 94

[News conference by Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan with unidentified correspondents in Casablanca on 1 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] First of all, allow me on the final day of this great economic event to express my gratitude and thanks to all the brothers in fraternal Morocco, particularly His Majesty King Hassan, who, with his personal supervision and care, provided us with the opportunity to meet with, and talk to all the major blocs participating in this universal conference.

I would also like to express the feeling of the Jordanian delegation that the goal of introducing the Middle East and North Africa economies into the world economy—given the fact that there are economic blocs within this big bloc, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union—that goal, as well as the process of identifying this region economically, socially, technically, and scientifically, have been given a big boost in this objective meeting, which determined the new trend by setting up a secretariat charged with following up the building of the regional institutions, particularly the regional bank for development.

We are very hopeful that this bank will be a truly regional bank and will not be a repetition of the charters and agreements known about the principal world financial institutions, including, of course, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund [IMF], when talking about the economic reform and the readjustment of economic structure. Experience in our Arab East proves that dealing with the World Bank has a well-known framework, that is, plainly put, the carrot and the stick. I believe there is a African saying about the World Bank, which says: The patient recovered, but he died in good health.

When talking about the IMF, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, OPIC, the World Bank, the IFC [International Finance Corporation], about the European EIB [acronym as heard], these experiences that came before us must serve the regional concept and the regional priorities when we speak about the formation of regional institutions.

Second, during the follow-up period, and with cooperation with the secretariat, we must stress that Jordan is keen to make the expected Amman meeting of 1995 a qualitative, objective meeting. Here, I would like to say that that conference will concentrate on the principal issue of this conference, that is the issue of commerce and investment as a concept. I hope that meeting will be preceded by preparatory meetings, including a meeting for investment and trade with the OPIC, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and other corporations in January next year.

I would like to conclude by saying, once again, that without this initiative of King Hassan II, to invite us to Casablanca, we would not have been able to move from the political meetings, to which we are accustomed in our Arab homeland, to a multilateral economic meeting. Yes, on the Arab level, we hosted in Jordan the economic summit in 1980. But that was a government, political summit. Here, we are talking about an unprecedented summit, a summit of multi-specialities and interests attended by the public sector and the various private sectors. I hope that we can maintain the continuity and achieve the implementation. I welcome any questions if you have any.

[Correspondent] We have heard that Saudi Arabia has reservations about the establishment of a regional development bank. We know that the United States supports the setting up of this bank. Where does Jordan stand vis-a-vis this issue? After the Casablanca summit, what do you want to achieve during next year's Amman summit? What, after the breaking of the psychological barrier, taking into consideration the stands of other Arab states which have reservations about normalization before withdrawal?

[Hasan] Thank you for the first question regarding the reservations about the establishment of the regional bank. You have attributed those reservations to a statement by the Saudi Government. I have not been acquainted with this statement, but, initially, I would say that reservedness that aims to study the matter in depth is a matter which we share with Saudi Arabia. In fact, when we speak of the bank as an objective, we do not agree on this principle and refer it to a committee of experts to come to us in Amman during the next summit, for example, to say that this is the concept that the region should accept [sentence as heard].

There are eight basic principles that have been laid down through agreement and dialogue with financial administrations in the United States and international financial institutions. The first objective is to have a pivotal role by industrialized nations in developing this concept. Besides, naturally, the basic aim of the bank, as stipulated by the first objective, is to effect economic integration among states of the region. Once again, states of the

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region need yet to be defined. Second, when talking about building an economic and civilian balance among states of the region, this integration [preceding word in English] must serve the weakest side. I believe, against this backdrop, that the idea of a bank for development must be inclusive of all new orientations. Personally, I favored President Clinton's orientation during our meeting in Washington two months ago when we talked about an economic council that leads to the establishment of the bank. I would like to note that Commissioner Jacques Delors—the EC, naturally, is interested in this issue—talked about the European Coal and Steel Community in the sixties prior to the establishment of the EC. However, he did not talk about the OECE, the European Economic Council, and about the problems of the sixties concerning what was called the dollar gap [two preceding words in English]. Today, in the nineties, among other things, we are suffering from dollarization [preceding in English]. I truly hope that this reservedness is objective—I believe it is so—and that the time span between our meeting in November 1994 and our next meeting in 1995 will be time for intensive meetings to discuss all details for the creation of the new financial and banking mechanism in the region.

Regarding the next economic meeting, and the issue of normalization before signing, I would like to say that the Jordanian treaty was signed before the Casablanca conference. When I speak in Jordanian terms, I have to affirm this treaty has restored full Jordanian territory and water rights without undermining the rights of any other party. Second, I would like to assert that I am a strong opponent to the slogan "submission and normalization." This is as if submission and normalization are the same thing. Actually, I do not believe submission and normalization are the same thing. On the contrary, when we speak of attempts at taming and the Israeli economic onslaught and the Arab fears about this onslaught, we should admit that there are legitimate fears. But should we live with fear? Or should we proceed to explore what we should do to contain Israel's better performance in the field of promotion, foreign contacts, investment attraction?

Yesterday, we played host to a large group of officials in the public and private sectors, from both Israel and Jordan, and we were able to break the ice. We found that the meeting in itself, especially the meeting by scientists in the field of technology and technical industries, was a meeting of colleagues, if we want to talk about the issues of science and technology, per se.

I cannot say that meetings between jurists were cordial. By their very nature, the differences are legal ones during the phases of negotiations. This is a very healthy thing. However, when we talk about the businessmen and technology, we speak of concepts. The most important thing agreed upon is that we should not present projects in the absence of concepts. I would like to affirm that the issue of the Free Trade Association, for instance, is a concept aimed at making us equal through these new development that have been the consequences of the bilateral Israeli-American or Israeli-European agreements. I greatly hope that this step will be strengthened by the [Arab] East so that we can restore our economic position as it was at the beginning of the talks with the EC. For instance, I would like to recall that in 1975, we signed the East [al-Mashriq] Agreement, along with sisterly Egypt and Syria.

Naturally, we call for expanding this link and for discussion through official and media contacts over the next critical weeks.

[Announcer interrupts recording] On Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the current Arab situation and the fields of economic cooperation between the two sides, His Highness Prince Hasan said:

[Recording resumes] [Hasan] I would like to affirm the Jordanian commitment to supporting the Declaration of Principles. Naturally, this declaration was concluded one day before the signing of the Joranian-Israeli agenda. As you know, we went to Madrid together, Jordanians and Palestinians, under one umbrella, and after supporting the declaration of principles, we called for meetings which were held on more than one occasion to discuss, basically, the economic issues. We are still awaiting full ratification of the agreements that were reached. This does not mean that there are no more Jordanian-Palestinian initiatives. On the contrary, there have been Jordanian-Palestinian economic achievements. However, I would like to affirm that there can be no hasty, unstudied planning. We take the best methods and approaches to affirm the vision of the integrated Arab cohesion between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian Arab identity on the occupied territory, an integrated vision with the brothers in Gaza and an integrated vision with the brothers in Jericho, as well as an integrated vision with all those who reside on the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

As regards the rivalry, we hope that this rivalry will be for the better and for the public interests. We believe in the religious rule which says that the public interest is the aim of the governor. We believe that the coming steps in building the Palestinian institutions will be extremely important, not only on the Palestinian level but on the Arab level as well, because we can move from the current state of unstudied moves, which was, perhaps, created by the rush of events, including the donor states conference and the need to open the external channels of aid and the need to support the Palestinian people as a basic question. I pointed this out to the donor states during my meeting with them in Washington. But I hope that this support will lead to establishing bodies that could hold a calm and objective dialogue with an institutionalized Palestinian and Jordanian methodology in the future.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, could you explain to us the future of the city of Jerusalem? Will there be a joint Jerusalem administration composed of Jordan and the state of Palestine?

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[Hasan] Thank you for this valuable question at this particular juncture. I answered this question in front of the American press. We were in fact surprised during our meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and the Israeli Foreign Minister Peres when the U.S. press directed a question to the U.S. secretary of state and he answered, as I recollect—you have to ascertain the exact text, naturally—that the U.S. stand is firm that the Jerusalem issue will be discussed at the final phase of the negotiations as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. The same question was addressed to the Israeli foreign minister who repeated the same answer, namely, that this issue will be discussed at the final phase; that is, in 1996.

I believe that I was the person targeted by this question. I was meant to make my relevant comments. My answer was the following: Certainly, we are for the Palestinian identity's exercise of all its political, economic, and social rights in all occupied territories. With regard to religious endowments, the responsibility for which we have decided to hand over to the Palestinian side in the autonomous areas, I would like to say that this gesture on our part reflected a response to a question posed by the newspaper AL-QUDS. It was a Jordanian gesture meant to promote current developments, and to lend greater credence and consideration to the Palestinian institutions in the territories. This is called for in the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. The early empowerment of responsibility for religious endowments is provided for in the DOP.

With regard to the issue of Jerusalem, I would like to make myself clear. When we speak of churches and mosques within the walls of the old city, that is, intra muris, there is an existing vacuum. There is a relevant provision agreed upon with the Vatican, according to which Jordan will exercise moral authority over holy shrines. We have have called this authority holy authority, authority moral, moral authority [preceding two words in English]. Given the current vacuum, or the current Israeli domination over the city, Israel's failure to recognize Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, and Israel's recognition of Islamic endowments, as provided for in the Washington Declaration, it is only reasonable to conclude that the responsibility for these endowments, that is, for prayer rooms, hospices, mosques, drinking fountations, and endowments property records is religious. Yes, in the final status negotiations, when jurisdiction [over the old city] is transferred to the Palestinian side, this responsibility [responsibility for endowments institutions and holy shrines] in its entirety will be transferred to those concerned. But, we are speaking of an interim period, of concern for the area of territory. Note that the rectification of the Jordanian-Israeli borders was grounded in a British mandate decision of 1946. This rectification of boundaries was carried out in such a way as not to undermine the future of territories occupied in 1967. We cannot abandon responsibility for this Arab identity [of Jerusalem] except for a Palestinian Arab identity. We can never accept any future claims that we have abandoned the Arab and Islamic identity [of Jerusalem] in favor of occupier Israel. In a nutshell, this is our position toward the Jerusalem issue. As a matter of fact, I was extremely concerned not to view this issue in an excited manner. This is because excitement produces maximalist positions on the part of the other side. These maximalist positions are bound to influence the final status of the issue, which is extremely emotional, and lends itself to conflicting ideas.

[Correspondent] Your Highness: Israeli leaders are speaking of the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as a foregone conclusion. They are saying that there will be a confederation between Jordan and the future Palestinian entity.

[Hasan] Between Jordan and what?

[Correspondent] Between Jordan and the future Palestinian entity. [Hasan laughs] They view this development as a foregone conclusion, believing that such a development is inevitable. His majesty the king [King Husayn] has expressed his opposition to this. He has even said that he is opposed to the mere discussion of such an issue at present. Where does Jordan really stand on the confederation issue?

[Hasan] Some Israeli leaders, only a few months ago, maintained that Jordan is Palestine. The provisions enshrined in the recently signed treaty have defined Jordanian borders and legitimized Jordanian sovereignty over Jordanian territory. Similarly, Israel has known where it stands, border wise. Thus, Israeli borders have been defined. Given this great event, I think that we should oppose the idea of forestalling events by maintaining that the future development will be have to be in the form of a federation or confederation with anybody. The Palestinian political struggle has continued to address the issue of a haven [preceding two words in French] and the issue of national jurisdiction [preceding two words in French], to build a state, national state [preceding two words in French] if the Palestinians were to achieve such a thing. Consequently, any statements on our part will be interpreted as interference in the domestic Palestinian affairs.

Our agreements with Israel are clear within the context of the treaty. They are agreements between the State of Jordan and the State of Israel and the treaty speaks for itself with competence, adequacy, and comprehensiveness. So, there is no room for any party to talk about these doubts and suspicions at this stage. With our pan-Arab nature, we, of course, wish to have the strongest cordial ties between us as Jordanians and Palestinians and amongst us as Arabs. Incidentally, I have called for inter-Arab normalization.

[Correspondent] Your Highness: In the international discussion of development in the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb under the canopy of this economic summit to create a ground and alternative economic issues, we feel

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there are enormous difficulties and [word indistinct] issues, such as the Jerusalem issue and to whom will it belong, as well as the issue of Israel's technological superiority, [word indistinct], and investment, and the conflict of interests after the signing of the GATT agreement. With these current difficulties, can the economic boom which is being discussed now be achieved; an appropriate economic boom that can guarantee equal opportunities and justice among all parties? Thank you.

[Hasan] I believe that the basic behavioral difficulty is to devote oneself to the public work on the Arab level. If we look at the Israeli initiatives toward the world groupings, such as the EC, the European Parliament, the EFTA [European Free Trade Association] member states, we would see that Israel has a distinguished position. Of course, they have the advantage of being a single state. We do not say that we have a disadvantage by having 22 [Arab] states, but we say that various views and many concepts prevent free movemnt. I would like to express the hope that—you have mentioned Jerusalem, for example—the cultural process and the religious dialogue among the various faiths can be institutionalized in our minds. When we talk about the economic dialogue, I wish that we separate economics from politics, both regionally and on the Arab level, until we build the Arab economic identity anew, and that we will not be recipients of Israeli and U.S. initiatives without asking to participate and attend on equal footing. In fact, we can make a positive participation if we want to. But, ineffectiveness and evading the major work that awaits us in the end of this century and the beginning of the new one will not serve the children and the generations to come or the Arab and Islamic future.

[Correspondent] My question concerns the future. Certain Western political observers expect sharp differences between Jordan and the state of Palestine, in which case Israel will intervene to resolve these differences. Your Highness: How do you assess these assessments?

[Hasan] I believe such statements are unfounded and nonsense. First, the term "the State of Palestine" is not on the map now. We hope that the Palestinians will attain the right to exercise their sovereignty. I may be one of the few people in the Arab world who have written about the Palestinian people's self-determination.

Divide-and-rule is a well-known colonialist ploy. Most regrettably, we, Arabs, create opportunities to delve into such speculation on inter-Arab disputes. As a matter of fact, we do not need Israeli or Western comments on inter-Arab disputes, or on how grave they are. It is my strong hope that our healthy and civilized response to this will be an initiative on our part to meet, hold talks and consultations, and build together a better future, reflecting our joint Arab and Islamic will.

[Correspondent] Water was one of the issues discussed at this economic summit. Jordan, Palestine, and Israel are slated to engage in joint water projects. What do you have to say on this issue?

[Hasan] With regard to future projects, I would like to say that such projects reflect visions. These visions seek the achievement of equity, balance, and later integration. From the outset, economic equity must be based on economic and civil balance. When we address the Israeli per capita income, we speak of $13,000,and also of a country aiming to raise it to $25,000. But, when we address the Arab per capita income, we speak of $1,000-2,000, or of less than $1,000. If we are to speak of popular participation in peacemaking, and of Arabs feeling that their dignity has been safeguarded on their Arab soil, these Arabs must feel that we have restored for them their ability to take part in public life, as well as their ability to compete. This is a basic point which we must recall. As for initiatives, I have already said that initiatives are not the monopoly of anybody. We must take the lead in demanding and vindicating these rights by recreating will.

By the way, I would like to address a cherished Arab value; namely, reading. Permit me to say that the leader of the Israeli opposition [Netanyahu] has congratulated me and himself during the treaty signing ceremony, saying: We have to read the agreement. One of the peace treaty opponents in your fraternal country, Jordan, has expressed opposition to the agreement. I contacted him, saying: Dear brother, before expressing opposition to the treaty, why cannot you devote some of your time to reading, which is a cherished Islamic value and an injunction articulated by the almighty God in the Holy Koran? It is my hope that we will not continue to take our ideas and news reports from exclusively Western sources. It is my hope that we will be open to one another. I would like to extend an invitation to the Moroccan news media to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in order to ascertain the facts.

Thank you. See you. My greetings to you.

Prince Hasan Meets With Morocco's King Hassan

LD0111170494 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following the final session, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, bade farewell to the heads of the delegations that participated in the Casablanca economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received Romanian President Ion Illiescu at noon today at the Royal Palace in Casablanca. He was accompanied by the members of the Romanian delegation participating in the Casablanca conference. [passage omitted]

Following that, his majesty received His Royal Highness Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, crown prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who was accompanied by Jordanian Ambassador in Rabat Husayn Hamami.

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Prince Hasan Meets World Officials, Departs

JN0211080294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan headed for London yesterday evening following the conclusion of his official visit to Morocco and his participation in the Casablanca conference for the development of the Middle East and North Africa. The conference concluded its activities in Casablanca yesterday. His Highness Prince Hasan was seen off by the Moroccan crown prince and other Moroccan officials.

The following is a roundup of Prince Hasan's activities in Casablanca yesterday:

His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco yesterday evening received His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan at the Royal Palace in Casablanca. The Moroccan monarch asked His Royal Highness Prince Hasan to convey his warm greetings to His Majesty King Husayn, as well as his great appreciation for the continued Jordanian efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East. The Moroccan monarch noted that these efforts were crowned by the signing of the Jordanian- Israeli peace treaty, which he said is an important and serious step toward a true, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Also yesterday at his place of residence in Casablanca, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin- Jasim Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister. The Qatari minister conveyed the greetings of his highness the amir of Qatar to His Majesty King Husayn. The meeting was attended by the members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying his royal highness.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed prospects for inter-Arab ties and regional cooperation in the next stage. They also exchanged views on many issues related to the peace process and the impact of peace on the life and progress of peoples in the region.

The Qatari minister stressed his country's support for Jordan's efforts within the context of the peace process, which were crowned by the signing of an historic peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. Following the meeting, the Qatari foreign minister said his meeting with Crown Prince Hasan was fraternal and reflected the close, strong ties between Jordan and Qatar.

Also at his place of residence, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who stressed his country's support for the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. The two discussed numerous issues raised at the Casablanca summit to develop and promote the Middle East region and North Africa and promote regional cooperation and creative competition.

Musa praised the efforts of His Majesty King Husayn and His Royal Highness Prince Hasan in proposing practical and serious plans for the development of the region and the creation of a new Middle East.

Later at his place of residence, his royal highness met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation. They discussed peace, security, and cooperation in the region in the coming stage. Afterward, [Israeli Foreign Minister] Shim'on Peres joined the meeting. An expanded trilateral discussion was held covering all issues that have to do with the future of the region, the peace process on the various tracks, as well as the practical steps that will be implemented now that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has been signed.

The discussion also revolved around the activities of the trilateral U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli committee and the projects and programs of the committee, in addition to the plans put forward by the United States, Jordan, and Israel at the Casablanca summit to bring about active regional and international participation in the development of the region in general and the Jordan Rift Valley in particular.

Afterward, His Royal Highness Prince Hasan, Christopher, and Peres spoke briefly to reporters.

Following the trilateral meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Hasan sponsored an open meeting between Jordanian and Israeli businessmen. The Israeli foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state attended the meeting. The businessmen discussed prospects for economic investment and cooperation to implement specific plans in the next stage, develop the region, and create a competitive investment climate. [passage omitted]

Casablanca Economic Conference Declaration Issued

LD0111172294 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1327 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Declaration issued by Casablanca Economic Conference on 1 November—live, in English; read by unidentified conference delegate]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and with the support and endorsement of President's Bill Clinton of the United States and Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, the representatives of 61 countries and 1,114 business leaders from all regions of the world gathered for the Middle East North Africa Economic summit in Casablanca from 30 October-1 November 1994. The participants paid tribute to His Majesty King Hassan II in his capacity as president and host of the conference and praised his role in promoting dialogue and understanding between the parties in the Middle East conflict. They also expressed their appreciation to the government and people of Morocco for their hospitality and efforts to ensure the success of the summit.

The summit leaders feel united behind the vision that brought them to Casablanca—that of a comprehensive

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peace and a new partnership of business and government dedicated to furthering peace between Arabs and Israelis.

Government and business leaders entered this new partnership with a deeper understanding of their mutual dependence and common goals.

Business leaders recognize that governments should continue to forge peace agreements and create foundations and incentives for trade and investment. They further recognize the responsibility of the private sector to apply its new influence to advance the diplomacy of peace in the Middle East and beyond.

Governments affirm the indispensability of the private sector in marshalling quickly adequate resources to demonstrate the tangible benefits of peace. Together they pledge to show that business can do business and contribute to peace as well—indeed, to prove that profitability contributes mightily to the economic scaffolding for a durable peace. The summit commended the historical-political transformation of the region as a consequence of significant steps towards a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—a process that began with the 1979 treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel and enlarged dramatically by the Madrid peace conference three years ago.

That process has borne fruit in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization Declaration of Principles. The recent signing of the treaty of peace between Israel and Jordan gave a new dimension to the process. The decision of Morocco and Tunisia to establish respectively liaison offices and liaison channels with Israel constitutes another new positive development. This accomplishment and the next stages of rapid movement toward a comprehensive peace in the region, including Syria and Lebanon, needs to be powerfully reinforced by solid economic growth and palpable improvement of the life and security of the peoples of the region.

The summit stressed that Syria and Lebanon have an important role to play in the development of the region. The summit expressed the strong hope that they will soon be able to join the regional economic effort.

In this connection, the participants noted that the urgent need for economic development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip requires special attention from the international community, both public and private, in order to support the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization Declaration of Principle and the subsequent implementing agreements to enable the Palestinian people to participate on equal basis in the regional development and cooperation. They stressed the equal importance of moving ahead on Jordanian-Israeli projects as well as on (?incorporating) projects between Israel and Jordan in order to advance the Jordanian-Israeli treaty of peace.

The participants recognized the economic potential of the Middle East and North Africa and explored how best to accelerate the development of the region and overcome as soon as possible obstacles, including boycotts, and all barriers to trade and investment. All agreed that there is a need to promote increased investments from inside and outside the region. They noted that such investments require free movement of goods, capital, and labor across borders in accordance with market forces, technical cooperation based on mutual interests, openness to the international economy, and appropriate institution [as heard] to promote economic interaction.

They also noted that the free flow of ideas and increased dialogue, especially among the business communities in the region, will strengthen economic activity—in this context the participants noted favorably the decision of the Council for Cooperation of the Gulf States regarding the lifting of the secondary and tertiary aspects of the boycott of Israel.

Based on the agreements between Israel and the PLO, it is important that the border of the Palestinian territories be kept open for labor, tourism, and trade to allow the Palestinian Authority, in partnership with its neighbors, the opportunity to build a viable economy in peace.

The participants paid tribute to the multilateral negotiations initiated in Moscow in 1992, which have significantly advanced the objectives of the peace process.

The governments represented at Casablanca will examine ways to enhance the role and activities of the multilateral negotiations, including examining regional institutions that address economic, humanitarian, and security issues. The participants noted that the progress made in the peace process should go along with the serious consideration of the socioeconomic disparities in the region and require to address the idea of security in the region in all its dimensions, social, economic, and political. In this context, they agreed that these issues need to be addressed within the framework of a global approach encompassing socioeconomic dimensions, safety and welfare of individuals and nations of the region. The participants recognized that there must be an ongoing process to translate the deliberations of Casablanca into concrete steps to advance the twin goals of peace and economic development and to institutionalize the new partnership between government and the business community.

To this end, the governments represented at Casablanca and private sector representatives stated the intention to take the following steps: Build the foundation for a Middle East and North Africa economic community, which involves at a definite stage the free flow of goods, capital, and labor throughout the region. Taking into account the recommendation of the regional parties during the meetings of the sub-committee on finance of the REDWIG [Regional Economic Development Working Group] Monitoring Committee, the Casablanca summit called for a group experts to examine the different options for founding a mechanism, including

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the creation of a Middle East and North Africa development bank. This group of experts will report on its progress and conclusions within six months in the light of the follow-on summit to the Casablanca conference. The founding mechanism will include appropriate bodies to promote dialogue and economic reform, regional cooperation, technical assistance and long-term development planning, establish a regional tourist board to facilitate tourism, and promote the Middle East and North Africa as a unique and attractive tourist destination and encourage the establishment of private sector regional chamber of commerce and business council to facilitate intraregional trade relations. Such organization would be instrumental in solidifying the [word indistinct] ties between the private and public sectors of the various economies.

The participants also intend to create the following mechanism to implement this understanding and embody the new public-private collaboration. The steering committee, comprised of government representatives, including those represented in the steering committee of the multilateral group of the peace process, will be entrusted with the task of following up all issues arising out of the summit and coordinating with the existing multilateral structures, such as REDWIG and others, multilateralist [as heard] working groups. The steering committee will meet within one month following the Casablanca summit to consider the follow-on mechanism. The committee will consult widely and regularly with the private sector. An executive secretariat to assist the steering committee, located in Morocco, will work for the enhancement of the new economic development [word indistinct] contributing to the consolidation of the global security in the region. The secretariat will assist in the organization of a regional chamber of commerce and business council, it will work to advance the public-private partnership by promoting projects, sharing data, promoting contacts, and fostering private sector investment in the region. The secretariat will assist in the implementation of the various bodies, referred into the present declaration. The steering committee will be responsible for the founding arrangement with the support of the private sector.

The participants welcomed the establishment of a Middle East-North Africa economic strategy group by the Council on Foreign Relations. The private sector group will recommend strategies for regional economic cooperation and ways to overcome obstacles to trade and private investment. It will operate in close association with the secretariat and submit its recommendations to the steering committee. The participants also welcomed the intention of the world economic forum to form a business interaction group that will further increase the contacts and exchanges among business communities and submit its recommendations to the steering committee.

The participants in the Casablanca summit pledges to transform this event into lasting institutional and (?individual) ties that it provide a better life for the people in the Middle East and North Africa. They resolve that the collaboration of the public and private sectors that constitute the singularity of Casablanca summit will serve as a milestone in the historic destiny that is now playing itself out in the Middle East-North Africa region.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the Council on Foreign Relations and to the world economic forum for their substantive contribution to the organization of the Casablanca summit. The participants expressed the intention to meet again in Amman, Jordan, in the first half of 1995 for a second Middle East-North Africa economic summit, to be hosted by his majesty King Husayn. Casablanca, 1 November 1994. [applause]

'Senior' Israeli Official Pleased With Declaration

TA0211141494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Nov 94 p A4

[Report by Gay Bekhor in Casablanca]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry representatives at the Casablanca conference yesterday expressed satisfaction with the content of the final declaration of the conference that ended yesterday. "The farther we are from the conference, the more important it will be," a senior Israeli Government official said.

The official was referring to the regional economic bodies the establishment of which is announced in the declaration. According to him, they will become economic institutions. The bodies in question are a regional bank, the possible establishment of which will be examined by representatives of the countries in the region; a permanent economic secretariat, which will organize events such as the economic summit; a Middle East economic steering committee; and a group of New York businessmen that will discuss economic planning and development. Also, a statement was made on the establishment of a regional tourism council.

Referring to the regional bank, the senior official said that international elements that previously opposed it have now lifted their opposition. "There is a struggle now over the location of the bank, which indicates that things are moving forward," he said.

He added: "We expect some six months of political negotiations on the establishment of the bank. Qatar has announced that it will join the bank staff in six months. The World Bank has so far opposed the establishment of this bank, but yesterday it lifted its opposition and is willing to cooperate."

According to the official, the permanent secretariat is an important institution because "the intention is to turn the secretariat into a regional steering committee in the future." The secretariat will also organize regional chambers of commerce and regional business councils. The economic steering committee and the group of private

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New York businessmen will deal with economic planning. "The establishment of these bodies is the main achievement of the conference," the official said.

The senior official also pointed to three Israeli achievements found in the wording of the final declaration of the Casablanca conference: the fact that UN Resolution 425 regarding a full withdrawal from Lebanon was not mentioned, the fact that it welcomed the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement, and the pledge that Israeli liaison offices will open in Morocco and Tunisia. He also pointed to the fact that the declaration expresses support for the decision by the six Gulf emirates to lift the secondary and tertiary boycott of Israel.

Israel is also pleased with the clause in the declaration that determines that, in order to encourage investments in the Middle East, free passage of goods, capital, and labor across borders is required. Israel is also pleased with the fact that the declaration attributed importance to the promotion of regional development and noted its intention to overcome obstacles, including the Arab boycott.

Morocco's King Hassan Makes Closing Remarks

LD0111172594 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1327 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Speech by Moroccan King Hassan at the Casablanca Economic Conference on 1 November—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Praise be to God and may peace and prayers be upon God's Messenger and his relatives and companions; Your Excellencies and Highnesses, ladies and gentlemen:

Thanks to God's help, we reached the end of the forum pleased with the resolutions it brought about which reflect our legitimate aspirations and which go hand in hand with our dearest hopes.

Our forum has the right—and it was attended by many eminent personalities which gave it an exceptional character which is almost unparalleled—to be proud of the things represented by its debates and the fields discussed which reflected a decisive participation in consolidating the peace process, stability, and development in the region.

It is necessary that the achievement of peace precedes any serious thinking in development and cooperation and thus peace can only get entrenched as a reality and as a permanent constant matter if it is able to achieve a new method of development and an economic revival in favor of most people, a result which is crystallized as soon as possible and a mobilization of all resources so as to achieve the things we aspire to realize in the medium and long term.

The Casablanca forum was also decisive because it came three years after the Madrid agreement and two years after the Washington agreement so as to help the international community to feel the degree of strong determination showed by all the states and international organizations and investors—either private individuals or enterprises. Thus all worked continuously so as the peace process, which was launched in Madrid, is followed up and strengthened in Casablanca by another strong process for regional cooperation and joint economic development characterized by balance which was announced by the Casablanca declaration.

Statesmen, entrepreneurs, and investors here in Casablanca have redrawn the map of a new Arab world that focuses its attention on development, progress, and prosperity for the benefit of the largest possible number of people; an Arab world open to partnership, and ready for exchange and eager to build its future on the grounds of a genuine strategy of cooperation excluding any policies based on confrontation or becoming closed to the outside world.

Proceeding from this constructive spirit, Morocco has decided to host the first international conference on the economic future of the Middle East and North Africa. It is a decision that we made out of conscience, farsightedness, and appreciation of our responsibilities. It is a decision within the framework of the constant and clear aspects of our policies for twenty years.

On top of its immediate requirements, peace in the Middle East can only manifest itself in practice within a comprehensive context in the medium and long terms; some of its security components interact with political and economic elements, the result of such an interaction is that regional cooperation, in its promising march, appears to be an efficient means to reduce the gravity of tension and a factor for stabilizing peace indefinitely. Regional cooperation is also an incentive for the region's peoples that bolsters the spirit of cohabitation, understanding, and harmony.

If peace is a fundamental condition that paves the way for the success of regional cooperation, it does not necessarily mean that the Casablanca meeting solved all the political problems; there still are Arab territories under occupation, and it is necessary to vacate these territories. The state of Palestine must also become a tangible reality so that it contributes to the stability of the region and its development.

Among the most important achievements of the Casablanca conference—and it is a considerable achievement—is that it reminded the world of the strategic importance of North Africa, revealed its economic characteristics and underlined its human links with the Middle East, particularly the spiritual, cultural, and religious ones. All these should attract the full attention of the international community and instigate it to exert concentrated efforts to help the growth of the region and its prosperity.

Therefore, this summit of ours has helped in integrating North Africa within the concept of the proposed action.

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The economic bases for achieving peace and development in the region will necessarily and inevitably include the partnership between the private sector and governments. This is true within the region and outside it. The encouragement and support of the regional cooperation should include the fields of commerce, transport, tourism, water, and environment.

The establishment of a new politico-economic dialogue will definitely help in opening the best horizons for foreign investments in the region and will consolidate the security and prosperity in all concerned countries.

And now, while we are concluding this conference, we can affirm that the doors of Morocco were not the only doors that were open in Casablanca but all the doors of the Arab world. We have faith in the future to win its challenge. We are prepared to work with everyone on an equal footing as partners and makers of peace in the world and carriers of the mission of science, religion, and arts. We are also fully prepared to meet the new era with all its requirements.

Casablanca has laid the foundation stone for building a new community in our region, to provide peace, safety, prosperity, and stability for our coming generations. The success of this meeting, in essence, is the success of everyone as much as it is a success of the whole. History, ladies and gentlemen, will owe it to you.

We ask God the almighty to grant success to our endeavors and to bless our actions and to keep us interacting within the contents of this chapter of His cherished book:

Nor can goodness and evil be equal. Repel evil with what is better. Then will he, between whom and thee was hatred, become as it were thy friend and intimate! And no one will be granted such goodness except those who exercise patience and self-restraint, none but persons of the greatest fortune [Koranic verses]. God has spoken the truth.

Peace be upon you and God's blessings. [applause]

EU President on Discussing New Accord With Rabat

LD0111145794 Rabat MAP in English 1257 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Nov.01 (MAP)—The economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa will be a tremendous success for King Hassan II and for Morocco and for their patient and discreet action to foster a peace that is still fragile, said President of the European Commission Jacques Delors.

Delors told the meeting Monday [31 October] upon departure that the European Union has means to mobilize political, economic and financial forces to the service of the Maghreb and the Middle East.

The European Union will discuss at a summit meeting before the end of the current year a proposal by the European Commission to consolidate the Union's policy towards the Mediterranean with the aim to establish progressively a big community based on free exchange and cooperation.

Dealing with the fisheries issue between Morocco and the EU, Delors said the Union takes into account Morocco's concern to protect its sea resources.

He voiced hope that the Union would conclude the soonest possible an accord similar to those binding the Union to Eastern European countries.

Delors had said in an earlier statement that the Union is ready to discuss a new accord with Morocco that will enable the management of sea resources with a fair treatment for each side and that the Union pledges to maintain the traditional flow of Moroccan goods.

Delors described the talks he held with Moroccan officials and business executives as fruitful and stressed the importance to consolidate economic partnership not only between [word indistinct] but also between enterprises.

Moroccans, Israelis Discuss Telecommunications

LD0111153194 Rabat MAP in English 1349 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca 1 Nov (MAP)—Moroccan and Israeli ministers of telecommunications, respectively Abdesslam Ahizoun and Shoulamit Aloni, surveyed at a meeting, held parallel to the economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa, bilateral cooperation in telephone and postal communication.

During the meeting, the Israeli minister hailed the role played by King Hassan II to bring together peoples of the Middle East and underscored the importance of the telecommunications sector in economic development.

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